# Introduction – Small, Rural School Achievement Program and Rural and Low-Income School Program

Part B of Title VI of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 authorizes the Secretary of Education to award funds under two separate formula grant programs designed to address the unique needs of rural school districts.

- Under the Small, Rural School Achievement Program (Section 6212), the Secretary awards grants directly to eligible local educational agencies (LEAs).
- Under the Rural and Low-Income School Program (Section 6221), the Secretary awards grants to State educational agencies (SEAs), which, in turn, award sub grants to eligible LEAs on a formula basis.

The US Department of Education plans on using information from the 2008-09 Spreadsheet to generate allocation amounts. In order to determine fiscal year 2008 allocations and eligibility in accordance with the rural education legislation, the Department must collect data.

**Program Eligibility Requirements**    The statute establishes the following eligibility requirements:

(1) *Small, Rural School Achievement Program*    An LEA is eligible for an award under this program if –

    (a)      The total number of students in average daily attendance at all of the schools served by the LEA is fewer than 600; *or* each county in which a school served by the LEA is located has a total population density of fewer than 10 persons per square mile; *and*

    (b)      All of the schools served by the LEA are designated with a school locale code of 7 or 8 by the Department's National Center for Education Statistics; *or* the Secretary has determined, based on a demonstration by the LEA and concurrence of the SEA, that the LEA is located in an area defined as rural by a governmental agency of the State.

(2) *Rural and Low-Income School Program*    An LEA is eligible for an award under this program if --

    (a)      The LEA is not eligible for a grant under the Small, Rural School Achievement Program;

    (b)      20 percent or more of the children ages 5 through 17 years served by the LEA are from families with incomes below the poverty line; *and*

    (c)      All of the schools served by the LEA are designated with a school locale code of 6, 7, or 8.

**Determination of Allocation Amounts --** The US Department allocates funds under the two rural grant programs on the following basis –

1. *Small, Rural School Achievement Program*  -- Under this program, the U. S. Department will award funds directly to eligible LEAs on the following basis:
   Initial Amount = ($20,000 +($100 * (# of Average Daily Attendance students ADA – 50))
   (NOTE: Initial amount may not exceed $60,000)
   Estimated Allocation = Initial Amount – the amount of funds the LEA received in fiscal year 2007 under the Title II.A Improving Teacher Quality, Title II.D Educational Technology, Title IV.A Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities, and Title V.A Innovative Education programs.

- *Rural and Low-Income School* Program -- Under this program, participating States receive an allocation based on their proportionate number of ADA in eligible LEAs. The State Department will award grants to LEAs according to a formula based on the number of students in average daily attendance served by the eligible local educational agencies.

Because the data entries on this form will affect all State and LEA allocations, the U. S. Department of Education has urged us to provide LEAs with an opportunity to verify the data on the Excel spreadsheet. If you have questions, please contact Pat Kaiser at **Pat.Kaiser @dese.mo.gov** or call 573-751-8643.

Spreadsheet Column-by-Column Explanations and Instructions

The headings listed below refer to the respective columns on the Excel worksheet. The State Department has provided the data in columns 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16. Data in the other columns were entered by the U. S. Department of Education. Please check all items for accuracy. E-mail Pat Kaiser at Pat.Kaiser@dese.mo.gov with any questions or comments.

**1. State LEA ID** *(Data entered by U. S. Department of Education)*: The county/district code number assigned by the SEA to the LEA.
**2. District Name** *(Data entered by U. S. Department of Education)*: The district name as it appears in the CCD.
**3. Locale codes of schools in an LEA on the CCD list** *(Data entered by U. S. Department of Education)*: This column lists the different school locale codes that have been assigned to school buildings in the LEA, but does not identify the locale code of each individual building. The Locale codes are:
1. Large City -- Central city of a Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA) or Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) with population of 250,000 or more.
2. Mid-size City -- Central city of a CMS or MSA but not designated as a large central city.
3. Urban fringe of large city -- Place within the CMSA or MSA of a large central city.
4. Urban fringe of a mid-size city -- Place within the CMSA or MSA of a mid-size central city.
5. Large Town -- Place not within a CMSA or MSA but with a population of 25,000 or more and defined as urban.
6. Small Town -- Place not within a CMSA or MSA with a population of at least 2,500 but less than 25,000.
7. Rural, outside MSA -- Place not within a CMSA or MSA and designated as rural.
8. Rural, inside MSA -- Place within a CMSA or MSA designated as rural

**4. Does each school have a locale code of 7 or 8?** *(Data entered by U. S. Department of Education)*: This column indicates whether all of the schools in the LEA have a school locale code of 7 or 8. LEAs that serve only schools with a locale code of 7 or 8 and meet the other eligibility requirements are eligible to participate in the Small, Rural School Achievement program.
**5\*. Is the LEA in an area defined as rural by the State?** *(Data provided by State)*: This column collects alternative data that may be used in establishing an LEA's eligibility for funds under the Small, Rural School Achievement Program if all of its schools do not have a school locale code of 7 or 8. Part of the eligibility requirements for this program is that all of the schools in the LEA must have a school locale code of 7 or 8, *or* the Secretary must determine, based on a demonstration of the LEA and with the concurrence of the SEA, that the LEA is located in an area defined as rural by a governmental agency of the State. *To enter "yes" in column 5, the LEA must provide the identity of the State governmental agency that established the definition of rural for their area, and State Department of Education must concur that the use of the definition and inclusion of the LEA in the Small, Rural School Achievement Program is appropriate.*
**6\*. Average Daily Attendance (ADA)***(Data provided by State)*: ADA data (based on June 2008 Core Data report) is used to establish eligibility under both rural education programs and to make State and LEA allocations.
**7\*. Is county population density less than 10 persons per square mile?** *(Data provided by State)*: This column collects alternative data that may be used in establishing an LEA's eligibility for funds under the Small, Rural School Achievement Program. Part of the eligibility requirements for this program is that the total number of students in average daily attendance at all of the schools served by the LEA must

be fewer than 600, *or* each county in which a school served by the LEA is located must have a total population density of fewer than 10 persons per square mile.

**8. Percentage of children from families below the poverty line?** *(Data entered by U. S. Department of Education)*:  In this column, the Department has listed for each LEA on the CCD list, the percentage of school-aged children served by the LEA that are from families with incomes below the poverty line.  This data is used to determine eligibility for the Rural and Low-Income School program.

**9. Does LEA meet Low-Income poverty requirement?** *(Data entered by U. S. Department of Education)*:  In this column, the Department has indicated whether an LEA on the CCD list meets the poverty requirement for the Rural and Low-Income School Program.  The requirement is that an LEA have a child-poverty rate of 20 percent or more.

**10. Does each school in the LEA have locale code of 6, 7, or 8?** *(Data entered by U. S. Department of Education)*:  To be eligible for the Rural and Low-Income School program, an LEA must serve only schools that have a locale code of 6, 7, or 8. This column indicates whether each school building in an LEA on the CCD list has a school locale code of 6, 7, or 8.

**11\*. FY 2008 Title II.A Allocation Amount** *(Data provided by State)*:  Enter the amount of the FY 2007 Title II.A Improving Teacher Quality grant award for each LEA.

**12\*. FY 2008 Title II.D Allocation Amount** *(Data provided by State)*:  Enter the amount of the FY 2007 Title II.D Educational Technology grant award for each LEA.

**13\*. FY 2008 Title IV.A Allocation Amount** *(Data provided by State)*:  Enter the amount of the FY 2007 Title IV.A Safe and Drug-Free Communities grant award for each LEA.

**14\*. FY 2008 Title V.A Allocation Amount** *(Data provided by State)*:  Enter the amount of the FY 2007 Title V.A Innovative Education grant award for each LEA.

**15\*. Is LEA eligible for Small, Rural School Achievement (SRSA) Program?** *(Data provided by State)*: In this column, the State Department made an initial determination concerning an LEA's eligibility to receive funds under the Small, Rural School Achievement Program.  (After reviewing the data, the U. S. Department will make the final determination concerning an LEA's eligibility for an award.)
Enter "yes" in column 8 if *both* of the following conditions exist:

- *First condition*: There is an entry of  "yes" in either column 4 ("Does each school have a school locale code of 7 or 8?") *or* column 5 ("Is the LEA defined as rural by the State?"); *and*
- *Second condition*: The ADA reported in column 6 is less than 600 *or* you have entered "yes" in column 7 ("Is county population density less than 10 persons per square mile?").

If both of these conditions are not met, enter "no" in column 15.

**16\*. Is LEA eligible for Rural and Low-Income School Grant?** *(Data provided by State)*: In this column, DESE made the initial determination concerning an LEA's eligibility to receive funding under the Rural and Low-Income School Program.
Enter "yes" in column 16 only if *all* of the following conditions exist:

- *First condition*: You have entered "no" in column 15 ("Is LEA eligible for Small, Rural School Achievement (SRSA) Grant?");
- *Second condition:* There is an entry of  "yes" in column 9 ("Does LEA meet Low-Income poverty requirement?") *and*
- *Third condition:* There is an entry of "yes" in column 10 ("Does each school in the LEA have locale code of 6, 7, or 8?")